



VIA AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Syria’s War, Through Assad’s Eyes
President Bashar al-Assad of Syria is on a choreographed tour, seen via official images, to counter the global news media. Page A12.

Caught in Lie, Then Getting Away With It

By **JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN**
For years, the Civilian Complaint Review Board, a New York City agency that investigates abusive police behavior, has documented every instance it believes it has caught an officer lying. The cases rarely present much of a mystery: Often they involve officers who deny throwing a punch or who downplay the force used during an arrest — only to have their accounts undermined by video recordings. But the civilian board has no power to mete out discipline in such cases; it refers them to the Police Department for further investigation and possible action. In case after case, the Police Department reaches the same find-

BLUE LIES
Promotions, Not Punishments

ing: There is not enough evidence to determine whether the police officer made a false statement, The New York Times found. The board has been notified of only two cases — out of the 81 it has been able to track since 2010 — in which the Police Department’s Internal Affairs Bureau upheld the board’s accusation that the officer had made a false statement. In the other 79 cases, the Police Department found no wrongdoing or found the officer guilty of lesser misconduct, such as failing to properly fill out a memo book, according to information provided by the board and a document obtained by The Times. The department isn’t required to tell the board if it takes action. So while the board has been able to learn the outcome of the 81 cases, there are dozens of other false-statement cases whose results the board does not know. “There didn’t appear to be any disciplinary consequences for cases where it seemed black and white that the officer was not telling the truth,” said Richard Emery, who was the civilian board’s chairman from 2014 to 2016. The Times has examined how lying remains a persistent problem within the Police Department, which, with its 36,650 officers, is by far the nation’s largest municipal force. A monthslong investigation uncovered a number of cases
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G.I.s in Niger Were Ill Equipped, Leader Warned

This article is by **Helene Cooper, Thomas Gibbons-Neff and Eric Schmitt.**

WASHINGTON — The leader of an ill-fated team of American soldiers in Niger last fall warned before the mission that his troops did not have the equipment or intelligence necessary to carry out a kill-or-capture raid against a local militant, according to preliminary findings of a continuing Defense Department investigation. In a departure from normal lines of authority, the report con-

Breakdown in Chain of Command Is Cited

cludes, the Oct. 4 mission was not approved by senior military officials up the chain of command in West Africa and Germany. Instead, it was ordered by a junior officer, according to two Defense Department officials. Four American soldiers and five Nigeriens were killed when the unit was ambushed.

The two officials said Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, are troubled that low-level officers are being blamed for the botched mission instead of senior commanders who should be aware when American troops are undertaking a high-risk raid. The mission began as a routine patrol before Operational Detachment-Alpha Team 3212 was redirected to the operation against the militant, Doundoun Cheffou, who has been linked to the Islamic
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GIANNI CIPRIANO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Luigi Di Maio, third from right, who leads the Five Star Movement, is “one of us,” a supporter said.

Poised to Lead Italy With Brio, if Not Experience

By **JASON HOROWITZ**
POMIGLIANO D’ARCO, Italy — After leading the anti-establishment Five Star Movement to a stunning result in Italy’s national elections, Luigi Di Maio returned triumphantly to his small hometown near Naples. Thousands of adoring supporters chanted “Pres-i-dent” and “Lu-i-gi” and gave their local boy a bouquet of yellow flowers. But no one was more ecstatic at his success than his mother, Paola Esposito, who said she was “very, very proud.” And to think, she added, he was living at home “until five years

A Charismatic Enigma, 31, Seeks a Coalition

ago.” Now Mr. Di Maio, 31, a college dropout and a former soccer stadium usher, may be first in line to become Italy’s next prime minister after the Five Star Movement won the most votes in the March 4 election. His improbable ascent is a measure of Italy’s suddenly turbulent politics. But it also reflects the youthful, new-kid-on-the-block appeal of the Five Star

Movement, as well as what critics say is one of its most glaring shortcomings — a lack of real-world experience. Among his credentials, Gigi, as Mr. Di Maio is often called, was the treasurer of his elementary school class and the president of his high school student body before he became vice president of the lower house of Parliament at 26, swept along on the coattails of his web-based party. Five Star won the support of a third of Italian voters in this month’s election, by far the most of any political party. That was not enough to grant it a governing ma-
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Political Firm Laid Out a List Of Dirty Tricks

Secret Recordings of the Chief Executive

By **MATTHEW ROSENBERG**
WASHINGTON — Sitting in a hotel bar, Alexander Nix, who runs the political data firm Cambridge Analytica, had a few ideas for a prospective client looking for help in a foreign election. The firm could send an attractive woman to seduce a rival candidate and secretly videotape the encounter, Mr. Nix said, or send someone posing as a wealthy land developer to pass a bribe. “We have a long history of working behind the scenes,” Mr. Nix said. The prospective client, though, was actually a reporter from Channel 4 News in Britain, and the encounter was secretly filmed as part of a monthslong investigation into Cambridge Analytica, the data firm with ties to President Trump’s 2016 campaign.

The results of Channel 4’s work were broadcast in Britain on Monday, days after reports in The New York Times and The Observer of London that the firm had harvested the data from more than 50 million Facebook profiles in its bid to develop techniques for predicting the behavior of individual American voters. The weekend’s reports about the data misuse have prompted calls from lawmakers in Britain and the United States for renewed scrutiny of Facebook, and at least two American state prosecutors have said they are looking into the misuse of data by Cambridge Analytica. Now, the Channel 4 broadcast appears likely to cast an even harsher spotlight on the company, which was founded by Stephen K. Bannon and Robert Mercer, a wealthy Republican donor who has put at least \$15 million into Cambridge Analytica. The firm’s so-called psychographic modeling techniques, which were built in part with the data harvested from Facebook, underpinned its work for the Trump campaign in 2016, though many have questioned their effectiveness. Less noticed has been the work that Cambridge Analytica and its parent company, the SCL Group, has done outside the United States. The operations of the two
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SECURITY OFFICER TO EXIT FACEBOOK AS OUTCRY GROWS

FIGHT OVER DISCLOSURE

An Internal Dispute Over Handling the Threat of Disinformation

This article is by **Nicole Perlroth, Sheera Frenkel and Scott Shane.**
As Facebook grapples with a backlash over its role in spreading disinformation, an internal dispute over how to handle the threat and the public outcry is resulting in the departure of a senior executive. The impending exit of that executive — Alex Stamos, Facebook’s chief information security officer — reflects heightened leadership tension at the top of the social network. Much of the internal disagreement is rooted in how much Facebook should publicly share about how nation states misused the platform and debate over organizational changes in the run-up to the 2018 midterm elections, according to current and former employees briefed on the matter. Mr. Stamos, who plans to leave Facebook by August, had advocated more disclosure around Russian interference of the platform and some restructuring to better address the issues, but was met with resistance by colleagues, said the current and former employees. In December, Mr. Stamos’s day-to-day responsibilities were reassigned to others, they said. Mr. Stamos said he would leave
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STEVE MARCUS/REUTERS

Alex Stamos, Facebook’s chief information security officer.

WHAT COULD GO WRONG? Kevin Roose explores how Facebook’s seemingly harmless data sharing went from a feature to a bug. **PAGE A18**

Woman’s Death in Arizona Casts A Pall on Driverless Car Testing

By **DAISUKE WAKABAYASHI**

SAN FRANCISCO — Arizona officials saw opportunity when Uber and other companies began testing driverless cars a few years ago. Promising to keep oversight light, they invited the companies to test their robotic vehicles on the state’s roads. Then on Sunday night, an autonomous car operated by Uber — and with an emergency backup driver behind the wheel — struck and killed a woman on a street in Tempe, Ariz. It was believed to be the first pedestrian death associated with self-driving technology. The company quickly suspended testing in Tempe as well as other cities: Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Toronto. The accident was a reminder that self-driving technology is still in the experimental stage, and governments are still trying to figure out how to regulate it. Uber, Waymo and a long list of tech companies and automakers have begun to expand testing of

their self-driving vehicles in cities around the country. The companies say the cars will be safer than regular cars simply because they take easily distracted humans out of the driving equation. But the technology is still only about a decade old, and just now starting to experience the unpredictable situations that drivers can face. It was not yet clear if the episode in Arizona will lead other companies or state regulators to slow the rollout of self-driving vehicles on public roads. Much of the testing of autonomous cars has taken place in a piecemeal regulatory environment. Some states, like Arizona, have taken a lenient approach to regulation. Arizona officials wanted to lure companies working on self-driving technology out of neighboring California, where regulators had been less receptive. But regulators in California and
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Taking On Government
Native American women are running for office in record numbers, and fighting an array of special interests. **PAGE A14**

4th Bombing Alarms Austin
A blast triggered by a tripwire suggests a higher level of sophistication in a wave of Texas bomb attacks. **PAGE A21**

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Tuberculosis Batters Venezuela
The disease is making an aggressive comeback in a nation in deep economic crisis, overwhelming a broken health care system. **PAGE A4**

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Actress to Run for Governor
Cynthia Nixon, best known for “Sex and the City,” said she would challenge Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo. **PAGE A22**

Subway Gets a Flunking Grade
Only 58.1 percent of weekday trains arrived on time in January, down from 64.1 percent a year earlier. **PAGE A22**



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Pictures of Perseverance
A New York Times photographer’s favorite images from the Paralympics include reflections of biathletes. **PAGES B14-15**

Tricky Trades? Blame Congress
Because of a single word in a new law, franchises may face capital gains taxes when they exchange players. **PAGE B12**

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Chapter 11 for Weinstein Co.
The bankruptcy filing voided nondisclosure pacts for anyone “who suffered or witnessed any form of sexual misconduct by Harvey Weinstein.” **PAGE B2**

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Very Serious. Humorous, Too.
The comedian Hannah Gadsby calls out Louis C.K. and targets a culture enabling abuse. Doesn’t sound funny, Jason Zino-man says, but she is that, too. **PAGE C1**

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A ‘Biobank’ of Patient Data
A \$1.4 billion federal program may help scientists find new links between diseases, genes and lifestyles. But big challenges lie ahead. **PAGE D1**

